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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria), on the basis of informal consultations

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and recalling its resolutions 1998/43 of 31 July 1998, 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006, 2007/33 of 27 July 2007, 2008/34 of 25 July 2008, 2009/12 of 28 July 2009, 2010/29 of 23 July 2010, 2011/6 of 14 July 2011 and 2012/24 of 27 July 2012,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[2] the 2005 World Summit,[3] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[4] the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.
[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[4] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.
[5] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[6] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[7]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, entitled "Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" including in particular section D, on gender equality and empowerment of women,

Recalling the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General,[8] and appreciates that it is the first report on gender mainstreaming to provide a systemic and comprehensive approach to data collection through the United Nations system;

2. *Also welcomes* the recommendations of the report, and calls for further and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular those of the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Stresses* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experiences on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Notes* with appreciation the important work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289, and recognizes its role in assisting Member States upon their request;

5. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to accelerate mainstreaming the issue of gender in accordance with previous Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2008/34, General Assembly resolution 64/289 and General Assembly resolution 67/226, including mainstreaming a gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and

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[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[8] E/2013/71.

other development frameworks, ensuring that managers provide leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming, strengthening reporting, monitoring and evaluation so as to allow system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, and using existing training resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming;

6. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue and increase support to Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women and related national entities;

7. *Welcomes* the roll-out of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, under the leadership of UN-Women, and the use of reporting under it to inform the report of the Secretary-General on "mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system", in order to provide the baseline for measuring the progress of the United Nation system on gender mainstreaming at the corporate level;

8. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that building the United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the entire United Nations to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination and senior managers to continue directing their attention to promoting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

10. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective organizational mandates, to continue working collaboratively to enhance and accelerate gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system including by:

(a) Continuing to roll-out the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and reporting on progress made in its implementation, including of entity-specific remedial action plans, as a system-wide accountability mechanism for performance in gender mainstreaming;

(b) Prioritizing remedial action plans and investing in human and financial resources, as appropriate, to address the gaps identified through the United Nations System-wide Action Plan reporting towards meeting set standards;

(c) Supporting efforts by the governing bodies of United Nations entities to devote adequate attention to gender mainstreaming in their plans and activities;

(d) Ensuring that the various accountability mechanisms of the United Nations system provide for more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and on the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the use of gender markers;

(e) Continuing to better align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, as requested by the Member State concerned, with the aim of mainstreaming gender perspectives into all legislation, policies and programmes;

(f) Strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities among entities of the United Nations system through existing coordination mechanisms at the country level and in partnership, where appropriate, with national stakeholders;

(g) Instituting greater accountability in evaluations conducted, inter alia, by United Nations country teams through the inclusion of gender perspectives in such evaluations;

(h) Expanding and strengthening the use by the country teams in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework of the United Nations Development Group performance indicators on gender equality (gender scorecard), as a planning and reporting tool for assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming;

(i) Substantially increasing the investment in and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework programmes, including by strengthening the predictability of funding, broadening the donor base and increasing flexibility of non-core resources;

(j) Acquiring appropriate technical expertise for gender mainstreaming into programme planning and implementation to ensure that gender dimensions are systematically addressed and, in this regard, drawing on the gender equality expertise available in the United Nations system, including at UN-Women, to assist in the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other relevant programming frameworks;

(k) Collecting, analysing, disseminating and using accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, in a regular and systematic manner, in order to guide country programming, to support the preparation of organization-wide and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks and evaluations, and to continue to promote and refine their tools for measuring progress and impact;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2014 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the promotion of accountability at both national and global levels and progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.